

to uphold and defend the dignity of Holocaust survivors and to ensure their well-being;

Whereas the Prague Conference is a critical forum for effectively addressing the increasing economic, social, housing, and health care needs of Holocaust survivors in their waning years;

Whereas then-Senator Barack Obama, during his visit in July 2008 to the Yad Vashem Holocaust Memorial in Israel, stated, "Let our children come here and know this history so they can add their voices to proclaim 'never again.' And may we remember those who perished, not only as victims but also as individuals who hoped and loved and dreamed like us and who have become symbols of the human spirit."; and

Whereas the Prague Conference may represent the last opportunity for the international community to address outstanding Holocaust-era issues: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That Congress—

(1) supports the goals and objectives of the 2009 Prague Conference on Holocaust Era Assets;

(2) applauds the Government of the Czech Republic for hosting the Prague Conference and for its unwavering commitment to addressing outstanding Holocaust-era issues;

(3) applauds the countries participating in the Prague Conference for the decision to seek justice for Holocaust survivors and to promote Holocaust remembrance and education;

(4) expresses strong support for the decision by those countries to make the economic, social, housing, and health care needs of Holocaust survivors a major focus of the Prague Conference, especially in light of the advanced age of the survivors, whose needs must be urgently addressed;

(5) urges countries in Central and Eastern Europe that have not already done so—

(A) to return to the rightful owner any property that was wrongfully confiscated or transferred to a non-Jewish individual; or

(B) if return of such property is no longer possible, to pay equitable compensation to the rightful owner in accordance with principles of justice and through an expeditious claims-driven administrative process that is just, transparent, and fair;

(6) urges all countries to make a priority of returning to Jewish communities any religious or communal property that was stolen as a result of the Holocaust;

(7) calls on all countries to facilitate the use of the Washington Conference Principles on Nazi-Confiscated Art, agreed to December 3, 1998, in settling all claims involving publically and privately held objects;

(8) calls on the President to send a high-level official, such as the Secretary of State or an appropriate designee, to represent the United States at the Prague Conference; and

(9) urges other invited countries to participate at a similarly high level.

SUPPORTING DEMOCRACY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT WITH MONGOLIA

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 192, which was introduced earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 192) expressing the sense of the Senate regarding supporting de-

mocracy and economic development in Mongolia and expanding relations between the United States and Mongolia.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. DORGAN. I further ask that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate, and that any statements relating to the measure be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 192) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 192

Whereas the United States Government established diplomatic relations with the Government of Mongolia in January 1987;

Whereas the Government of Mongolia declared an end to one-party Communist rule in 1990 and initiated democratic and free market reforms;

Whereas the United States Government has a continued commitment to ongoing economic and political reforms in Mongolia and has made sizeable contributions for that purpose since 1991;

Whereas, in 1991, the United States established Normal Trade Relations (NTR) status with Mongolia and began a Peace Corps program that now boasts over 100 volunteers and over 725 volunteers since its creation, and is one of the largest per capita Peace Corps programs worldwide;

Whereas the United States extended permanent NTR status effective July 1, 1999;

Whereas the United States has strongly supported the participation of Mongolia in the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank, and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, among other international organizations;

Whereas the United States and Mongolia enhanced their trade relationship through the signing of a Trade and Investment Framework Agreement in 2004 to boost bilateral commercial ties and amicably resolve disagreements over trade;

Whereas the Government of Mongolia continues to work with the United States Government to combat global terrorism and, from April 2003 to October 2008, sent 10 consecutive deployments to Operation Iraqi Freedom and 7 indirect fire technical training teams to Afghanistan;

Whereas the Government of Mongolia continues to demonstrate a growing desire to join the United States in global peacekeeping activities by providing an ongoing deployment of soldiers to protect the Special Court for Sierra Leone, as well as providing deployments in support of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization mission in Kosovo and United Nations missions in a number of countries in Africa;

Whereas the Government of Mongolia signed denuclearization agreements in 1991 and 1992, making Mongolia a nuclear weapons-free zone;

Whereas Mongolia was deemed eligible for Millennium Challenge Compact assistance on May 6, 2004, submitted its official proposal on October 13, 2005, received approval for its proposal from the Millennium Challenge Corporation on September 12, 2007, and signed a Millennium Challenge Corporation Compact Agreement on October 22, 2007, during a visit to the United States by then-Mongolian President Nambaryn Enkhbayar;

Whereas President George W. Bush became the first-ever sitting United States President to travel to Mongolia on November 21, 2005;

Whereas the House Democracy Assistance Commission began a program to provide parliamentary assistance to the State Great Hural, the parliament of Mongolia, in 2007;

Whereas Senate Resolution 352, 110th Congress, agreed to October 18, 2007, expressed the sense of the Senate on "the strength and endurance" of the partnership between the United States and Mongolia during the 20th anniversary of relations between the two countries;

Whereas the United States and Mongolia signed an agreement to increase cooperation in preventing trafficking in nuclear technology on October 23, 2007;

Whereas, during the October 2007 visit by then-President Enkhbayar to Washington, DC, the United States and Mongolia agreed to a Declaration of Principles for further cooperation between both countries, including a commitment to expanded development and long-term cooperation in political, economic, trade, investment, educational, cultural, arts, scientific and technological, defense, security, humanitarian, and other areas;

Whereas the people of Mongolia completed a free, fair, and peaceful democratic election on May 24, 2009, which resulted in the election of opposition Democratic Party candidate Tsakhiagiin Elbegdorj;

Whereas Secretary of State Hillary Clinton announced on June 9, 2009, with the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade of Mongolia, S. Batbold, that the United States is "committed to supporting the government and people of Mongolia as they seek assistance to develop, as they continue their democratization, and as they reach out to the rest of the world"; and

Whereas the United States Government and the Government of Mongolia share a common interest in promoting peaceful cooperation in Northeast Asia and Central Asia: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the Senate that—

(1) the growing partnership between the democratic governments and peoples of the United States and Mongolia deserves acknowledgment and celebration;

(2) the democratic election and peaceful transition of power in Mongolia is an important demonstration of the continuing commitment in that country to democratic reform and represents a significant achievement for that young democracy;

(3) the United States Government encourages further economic cooperation with the Government of Mongolia, including, as appropriate, enhanced trade and investment to promote prosperity for both of our economies;

(4) the United States Government should continue to work with the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank, and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development to assist the Government of Mongolia in improving its economic system and accelerating development;

(5) the United States Government should continue to provide Mongolia assistance under the Millennium Challenge Compact and encourage further effective and accountable governance; and

(6) the United States Government should expand upon existing academic, cultural, and other people-to-people exchanges with Mongolia.

ORDERS FOR FRIDAY, JUNE 19, 2009

Mr. DORGAN. I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes

its business today, it adjourn until 9:30 a.m. tomorrow, Friday, June 19; that following the prayer and the pledge, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the morning hour be deemed expired, and the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and there be a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PROGRAM

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, there will be no rollcall votes during tomorrow's session of the Senate.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 9:30 A.M. TOMORROW

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it adjourn under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 6:53 p.m., adjourned until Friday, June 19, 2009, at 9:30 a.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

EDWARD M. AVALOS, OF NEW MEXICO, TO BE UNDER SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE FOR MARKETING AND REGULATORY PROGRAMS, VICE BRUCE I. KNIGHT, RESIGNED.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

DEBORAH A. P. HERSMAN, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD FOR A TERM EXPIRING DECEMBER 31, 2013. (RE-APPOINTMENT)

DEBORAH A. P. HERSMAN, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE CHAIRMAN OF THE NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD FOR A TERM OF TWO YEARS, VICE MARK V. ROSENKER, TERM EXPIRED.

FEDERAL MARITIME COMMISSION

RICHARD A. LIDINSKY, JR., OF MARYLAND, TO BE A FEDERAL MARITIME COMMISSIONER FOR THE TERM EXPIRING JUNE 30, 2012, VICE A. PAUL ANDERSON, RESIGNED.

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

JAMES J. MARKOWSKY, OF MASSACHUSETTS, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF ENERGY (FOSSIL ENERGY), VICE JEFFREY D. JARRETT, RESIGNED.

WARREN F. MILLER, JR., OF NEW MEXICO, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF ENERGY (NUCLEAR ENERGY), VICE DENNIS R. SPURGEON.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

ROBERT PERCIASEPE, OF NEW YORK, TO BE DEPUTY ADMINISTRATOR OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY, VICE MARCUS C. PEACOCK, RESIGNED.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

MIGUEL HUMBERTO DIAZ, OF MINNESOTA, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE HOLY SEE.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

DAVID J. KAPPOS, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE UNDER SECRETARY OF COMMERCE FOR INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY AND DIRECTOR OF THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE, VICE JONATHAN W. DUDAS, RESIGNED.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

JUAN M. GARCIA III, OF TEXAS, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE NAVY, VICE WILLIAM A. NAVAS, JR., RESIGNED.

IN THE AIR FORCE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be lieutenant general

LT. GEN. PHILIP M. BREEDLOVE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be major general

BRIG. GEN. RONNIE D. HAWKINS, JR.

IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. MICHAEL D. BARBERO

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be lieutenant general

LT. GEN. RICKY LYNCH